

SPRING 2011

The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



Kenneth D. Lewis
1934-2011

The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

VOL. XXVI, NO. 2 SPRING 2011

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Calendar of Events

AUGUST 22-26

Welcome Week

SEPTEMBER 16

Founders Day Memorial Service

Windsor Plaza

7:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 23-24

Parents Weekend

OCTOBER 12-16

Theatre TJC: Macbeth

Jean Browne Theatre

7:30 p.m. nightly, with

2 p.m. Sunday matinee

OCTOBER 24-28

Homecoming Week

OCTOBER 24-25, 28-29

Godspell

Homecoming Dinner Theatre/

Second Stage Musical

Apache Rooms,

Rogers Student Center

7 p.m.

OCTOBER 28

Alumni Association Homecoming
Awards Dinner

Apache Rooms,

Rogers Student Center

6 p.m.

OCTOBER 29

Alumni Catered Tailgate Party

Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium

parking lot

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Homecoming Football Game

Apaches vs. Kilgore

Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium

3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 18-19

Pops Concert

Harmony & Understanding Reunion

Wise Auditorium

7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30- DECEMBER 4

Theatre TJC: The Lion in Winter

Jean Browne Theatre

7:30 p.m. nightly, with

2 p.m. Sunday matinee

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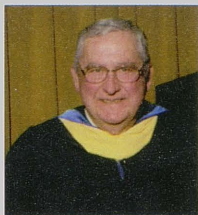
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The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



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Kenneth Lewis

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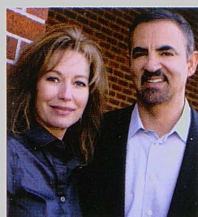
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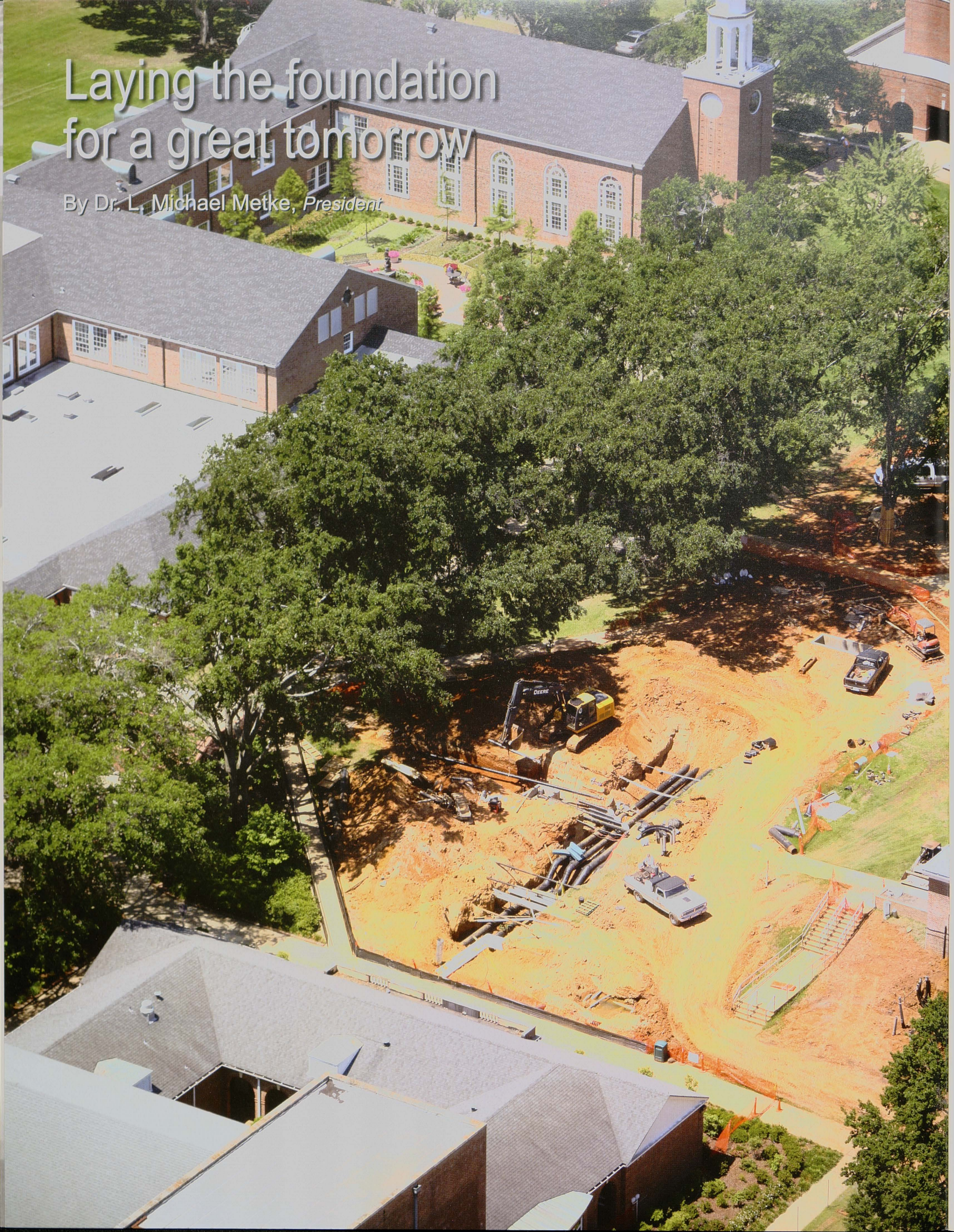
Kenneth Lewis, who spent 45 years as TJC's dean of admissions and registrar, passed away on March 26. For more on his life and career, please see Page 10.

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Laying the foundation for a great tomorrow

By Dr. L. Michael Metke, *President*



Our Board President, Clint Roxburgh, and I were recently invited to speak to a local citizens' group about challenges the College faces and what we are doing to operate more cost-effectively in challenging times.

Part of our report to the group dealt with the \$26 million in infrastructure work that is nearing completion on the main and west campuses.

Mr. Roxburgh told the audience that the last thing TJC leaders wanted to do was to spend money on projects that don't provide new instructional facilities or increase opportunities for students. However, replacement of the failing infrastructure – begun in the Fall of 2009 – was essential before the college could build new facilities and improve student success.

Not long after coming to TJC, I learned of major utility concerns that were not only interrupting our schedule of classes but harming the environment and forcing costly emergency repairs. I had never worked for a college where I wondered each night if the electricity would work the next day or if the heating or cooling system would make it another 24 hours without a burst in a line.

As I watched local work crews dig holes in our main campus to repair breaks in the chilled and hot water loop systems that supply heated and cooled air to our buildings, I realized TJC was literally throwing its money into an endless pit. Each time electrical outages brought our campus to a halt, adding stress to our computer infrastructure and usually stranding someone in an elevator, I wondered how long it could go on.

Over the years the College did a great job of extending the life of equipment and building systems well beyond normal life expectancies. Air handlers that were intended to last 25 years were still running more than 40 years after installation. The loop system that was buried in the 1950s, when central heating and air conditioning was added, was functional, but its shut-off and isolation valves were no longer operating. When a burst in the lines occurred, we would lose up to 8,000 gallons a day in treated water and we could not bypass the break and continue servicing the remainder of the campus. Repair required outside assistance and caused disruption in



Crews have been working since late 2010 to complete new hot and chilled water loops on the main campus, to provide warm and cool air to buildings.

services campus-wide. And, the breaks weren't always during normal work hours. The typical scenario would see a new break occur further down the line within hours of a repair.

Industry experts gave us the news that we dreaded. We needed to abandon the old loop system and start over.

Thankfully, our board of trustees realized the gravity of the situation and took action. They approved the purchase of bonds and dedicated a new tax line to pay for retirement of the bonds, meaning we could get to work right away and do so with an interest rate of just 2.78 percent.

The job of creating a new chilled and hot water loop system and moving overhead electrical lines underground, while operating the College at the highest enrollment in its 85-year history, has been very disruptive. Nevertheless, our faculty, staff and students have been resourceful and understanding – even if it means finding new ways each week to get from one building to another.

The work has turned our beautiful main campus landscape into a rough sea of earth-moving equipment, dirt, culverts and conduit. While it will take our lawns a few months to heal, the overall beauty will be greatly enhanced and TJC will be renewed and ready for an even more promising future.

New lawns, new sidewalks and new asphalt will cover up the underground equipment and we'll be able to face the future knowing that our systems not only are meant to last for years to come but that they will support additions to the

campus as we work to meet the academic needs of a growing student population.

What's more, the board approved the creation of a new line item in the college budget to secure funds for necessary annual repairs so that we will never again be in the position of needing a "bailout" to keep operating.

These funds will support a scheduled replacement and upgrade plan to avoid any unexpected future problems.

I'm resting easier at night, thanks to the infrastructure upgrade and the knowledge that at TJC, we have one of the most proactive and supportive boards a college can have.



Large trenches for water lines are often accompanied by adjacent trenches for the placement of new underground electrical lines.

Indoor drumline competes in World Championships



The TJC Indoor Drumline is officially the best in Texas, being the only ensemble of its kind to compete in Percussion Independent World Class for the second consecutive year. No other ensemble in Texas has achieved the skill level necessary to be placed in this class, said TJC Associate Director of Bands Tom McGowan, who serves as indoor drumline director. Karman Trotter is the choreographer. At the World Championship held in April in Dayton, Ohio, TJC scored an 85.1 in preliminaries and an 86.963 in the finals, taking 11th place overall and scoring just 5/100ths of a point out of top-ten contention.

Art students commissioned to create dance paintings for Ornelas HPE Center

In 2004, longtime Tyler Junior College supporter Margaret Perkins, of Citizens First Bank in Tyler, requested TJC art students create two large-scale, 6-by-6-foot paintings for the foyer area of the bank. The result was a huge success and Mrs. Perkins and her husband, James I. Perkins, rewarded the TJC art program by funding multiple scholarships for art students.

Last fall, Mrs. Perkins again sought the talents of the TJC art program to create six silhouette paintings for the dance studios in the TJC Ornelas Health & Physical Education Center.

Four of the department's outstanding artists in Prof. Derrick White's painting class – Megan Bryant of Lindale, Erika Garrett of Sulphur Springs, Cayla Thompson of Tyler, and Kelsey White of Red Oak – accepted the challenge and created two sets of three 4-by-4-foot consecutive panel paintings of dancers. Titled "Three Dancers" and "Express Youeself", the works each have their own individual composition but together exhibit a strength and consistency of style. The paintings show expressive movements of dance in their flowing colors of line and shapes of human forms. The artworks were completed in the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters.

For more information on TJC art programs, go to www.tjc.edu/art.



TJC art students Cayla Thompson and Kelsey White with two of their three-painting series, "Express Yourself." The paintings were commissioned by TJC supporter Margaret Perkins to be exhibited in the dance studios located in the TJC Ornelas Health & Physical Education Center.

ONCAMPUS

TJC celebrates Arbor Day with tree-planting

Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass and TJC President Dr. Mike Metke helped the college celebrate Arbor Day with a tree-planting April 29 at the Louise H. and Joseph Z. Ornelas Residential Complex.

In addition to celebrating Arbor Day, the ceremony marks TJC's involvement in the Mayor's Tree Tyler Initiative to plant 5,000 new trees in the city by the year 2015.

"Tyler Junior College is a picturesque campus, and part of that beauty is due to our abundance of trees," Dr. Metke said.

"This was a great opportunity for our students to give back to their TJC community and it's a legacy that will live on for years to come."



Krantz receives College Media Advisers award



Laura Krantz

Laura Krantz, professor/chair of the Tyler Junior College communications and student media, was recognized by the national College Media Advisers organization last fall.

Krantz received a 2010 CMA Honor Roll Adviser award which is given annually to CMA members with fewer than five years of advising experience. An adviser must be nominated by a colleague and then provide supporting letters from colleagues and students in support of the nomination.

The award was presented during the annual CMA conference on Oct. 28, in Louisville, Ky.

"I am very grateful to CMA for this recognition and to my students for

nominating me," Krantz said. "I look forward to many more years in college media."

Krantz, who joined the TJC faculty in 2007, oversees the department of journalism and student publications, teaches courses in writing for mass media and advises student media.

She has spent the last 12 years working in the communication, public relations and media fields; and she has six years of professional journalism experience and spent almost three years as the communications director for the City of Tyler. She also operates her own media and public relations consulting firm.

Student newspaper wins big at state conference

The Apache Pow Wow, the award-winning student newspaper of Tyler Junior College, received 35 awards during the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) conference March 31-April 2 in Fort Worth. The awards

included first place for Overall Excellence and Sweepstakes for Division 4.

The Apache Pow Wow faculty adviser and Journalism Department Chair, Laura Jett Krantz, was named Adviser of the Year during the conference. Krantz was also elected to serve as secretary on the TIPA board.

Judges named Managing Editor Haley Smith as Reporter of the Year, and former Editor in Chief Chantel Martin was named Designer of the Year for Division II.

The students placed in an array of categories from design and layout, to news and sports feature writing, to photography and ad design. They also placed for the first time in online and television categories.

"I am proud of my students who showed that TJC is preparing them with the tools to succeed in a changing news business," said Krantz. "These students are the future of journalism, and it was exciting to see them use their talents to compete with schools from across Texas."

ONCAMPUS

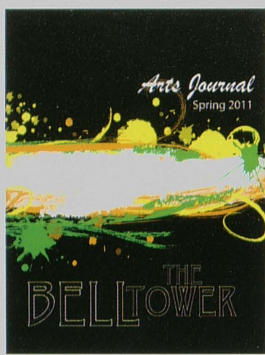
Fifth edition of Bell Tower arts journal released

The fifth edition of the Tyler Junior College Bell Tower arts journal was released in March.

The Bell Tower highlights the literary, photographic, graphic and visual works created solely by TJC students, said faculty adviser and TJC English professor Dr. Linda Gary.

Gary began the journal soon after she came to TJC in 2005.

"I felt that a college of TJC's stature with such terrific arts programs needed a publication to celebrate the talent of its students," she said.



So, she approached then University Studies Dean Richard Minter who found funding in his budget, and enlisted the help of graphic arts professor Torrie Wylie and art professor Derrick White. The first edition rolled off the presses in 2007.

"From the beginning, we wanted the publication to be student centered and student generated," she said. "Only students may submit their literary, photographic, graphic, and/or visual works to The Bell Tower; and faculty only participate in an advisory capacity."

Students also participate in the selection process for the upcoming issue, and graphic arts students design the cover and layout each year. The Bell Tower has won a number of Texas Intercollegiate Press Association awards.

Gary said this edition of the Bell Tower was dedicated to Molly Stanley, a TJC student who was tragically killed in a car accident just before her graduation last spring.

"Molly was a creative and talented student who used her skills to help create

the 2009 edition of The Bell Tower Arts Journal," she said.

College receives more than \$360,000 in grants

Three TJC programs have recently benefited from grants for the Job Building Fund grant from the Texas Comptroller's Office.

The grants were awarded as part of the comptroller's Every Chance, Every Texan program. The program provided \$10 million in competitive grants for the 2010-2011 biennium.

The total of TJC's successful three grants exceeds \$360,000.

The welding program, based on the West Campus, is benefitting from of a \$208,500 used to add space for additional welding students and to improve the program's instructional environment.

The TJC welding program applied for a grant to purchase fume extraction equipment to allow the program to utilize advanced materials and welding applications while maintaining a healthier learning environment.

"Some materials can release toxic fumes and gases when welding, such as hexavalent chromium when stainless steel is used," explained Bryan Baker, professor of welding and department chair for industrial trades. "Updating the equipment resulted in improved air quality in the TJC welding labs."

In addition, welding grant funds were used to purchase gas manifolds and mixers and to allow the program to add 1,450 square feet to its 5,200-square-foot lab area.

In addition to 121 TJC students studying welding, the program serves 29 dual credit students from three area high schools.

The welding program also works with the Luminant Academy, providing welding lab training for its employees.

Luminant is a subsidiary of Energy Future Holdings Inc., formerly TXU

Corp. The Luminant Academy is the company's training facility, located in the TJC Skills Training Center on the College's West Campus, adjacent to the TJC welding labs.

The vocational nurse education program at TJC-Rusk received \$117,209 in grant funds to help with costs associated with furnishing state-of-the-art equipment for the 24-seat facility, located at Rusk State Hospital. Equipment purchased included: an advanced obstetrical patient simulator, models of lungs, vertebrae and other human anatomy, a transport stretcher, patient beds, chairs and tables, a hydraulic patient lift an electrocardiograph package, a tracheostomy model/trainer, 25 computers for 20 station computer lab, two podium presentation computers, three faculty desktop computers, two "smart" podiums, two LCD projectors, IV training modules and defibrillator.

At TJC-Jacksonville, \$44,254 was used to purchase the equipment necessary to operate a state-of-the-art anatomy and physiology lab, which will open this fall. The lab purchases included models and dissecting equipment.

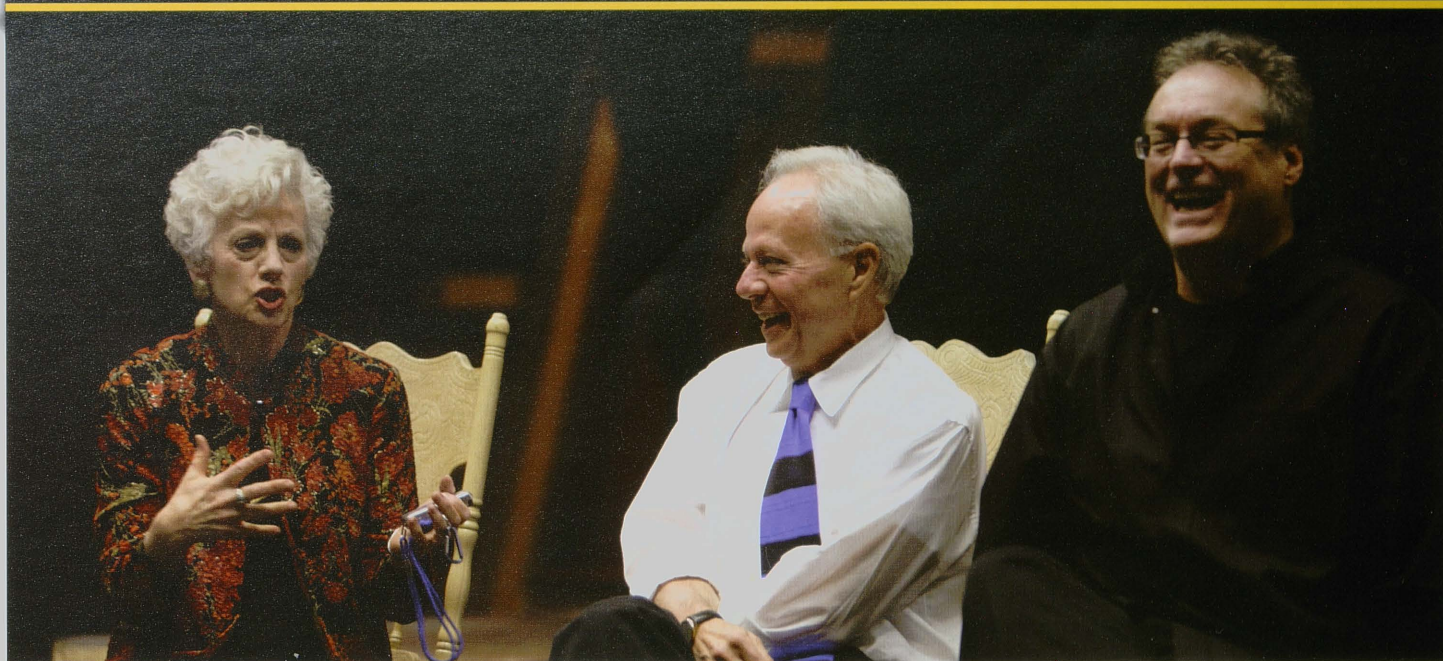
Book Bank Helps Students

The TJC Foundation Book Bank fund helps students who cannot afford to purchase all of their books for a semester. If you would like to assist the Book Bank with a private gift, visit

www.tjc.edu/forms/foundation/BookBank.php



Playwrights visit Theatre TJC students



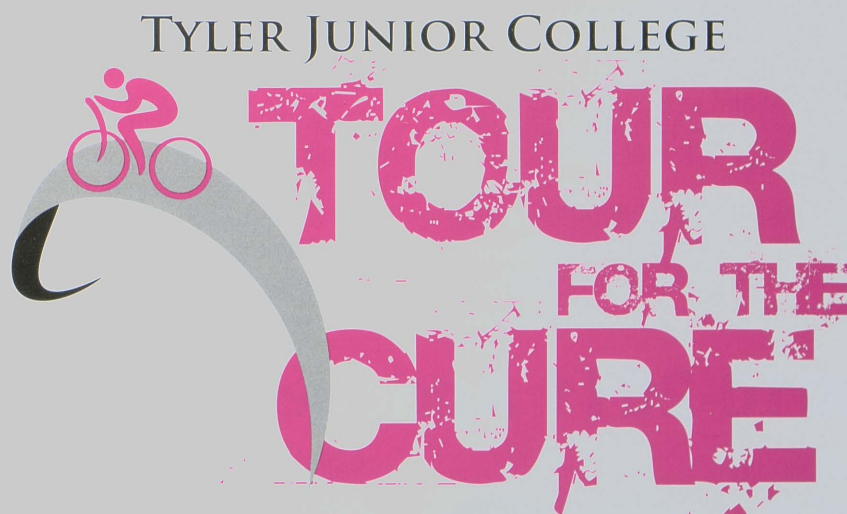
It's not often that TJC drama students have a chance to meet the writers of their plays, but that's exactly what happened last fall when the playwrights of the Theatre TJC's production of "Southern Hospitality" stopped by and sat a spell. The writing team – Jessie Jones, TJC alum Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten – has penned such comedies as the wildly popular Futrelle Family Texas trilogy: "Dearly Beloved," "Christmas Belles" and "Southern Hospitality." They are also authors of the hit plays "The Dixie Swim Club," "The Hallelujah Girls," "Til Beth Do Us Part," and their newest comedies, "The Red Velvet Cake War" and "Dashing Through The Snow."

In honor of TJC's upcoming 85th anniversary, the College will celebrate its legacy and role as a community partner with a unique fundraising and fitness event on Saturday, Oct. 22.

The Tyler Junior College "Tour for the Cure" will include a morning bike ride and walk, and the festivities will conclude at TJC's 3 p.m. football game against Lon Morris at Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium.

Half of the event proceeds will support TJC's growing health sciences programs and half will go to Tyler's affiliate for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

For more information, contact Mitch Andrews at mand@tjc.edu or 903-510-2034.



Benefiting TJC health sciences programs
and Susan G. Komen for the Cure

GO APACHES

Six inductees join TJC Circle of Honor

Legendary TJC coach Floyd Wagstaff's first basketball recruit and several former All-American athletes were added to the TJC Sports Circle of Honor in ceremonies that took place in February.

The athletic hall of fame now includes 65 former students, coaches and special contributors.

Acker Hanks, who was married, 26 years old and a father when he met Coach Wag in 1946, remembered that the opportunity to play basketball for Wag was a dream come true, even if the academic schedule was rigorous.

"I wasn't a very good student," he told an audience of about 200 in accepting Circle of Honor recognition.

In fact, if it hadn't been for Coach Wagstaff and librarian Lottie Ray he might have dropped out altogether.

"I enrolled at Tyler Junior College in the fall of 1946 and I had problems from the very first day," he said.

Ray helped him improve his study habits and his instructors continued to encourage him. Hanks went on to find success on the basketball floor, in the classroom and in business, serving as mayor of the city of Whitehouse in the early 1990s.

He was joined in this year's induction celebration by fellow inductees Rosie Aldridge, Aubry



Circle of Honor 2011 class members are joined by inductees from previous years. Left to right, are: first row, Gene Shannon, Acker Hanks, Genuva Plunkett (widow of Burl Plunkett), Aubry Schulz, Rosie Aldridge Smart, Bobby Page, Tommy Sawyer; second row, James "Poo" Welch, Herb Richardson, Harry Bostic, Bob Price, Ardie Dixon, Jimmy Murphy, Charlie McGinty, John Linney, C.L. Nix and Fred Kniffen.

Schulz, Burl Plunkett, Tommy Sawyer and Bobby Page.

Aldridge was a standout post player who was recruited by TJC women's coach Herb Richardson. She was a first-team All-American in 1981 and averaged more than 20 points a game.

Schulz, from Austin McCallum High School, was recruited by TJC football coach Billy Wayne Andrews. After winning a conference title with the Apaches in 1972, he transferred to Baylor University. He was named to the Bears' All-Decade Team of the 1970s.

Page played football for the Apaches in their undefeated season of 1951, the year the Apaches played in the Little Rose Bowl in California. He was head football coach at Wichita Falls Hirschi High School from 1985-93.

Plunkett was a great scorer for Wagstaff basketball teams, 1951-53, and went on to a great career in coaching. Plunkett earned more than 1,000 victories as coach of boys' and girls' high school teams and the women's basketball program at University of Oklahoma. Plunkett passed away in 2008. He was represented at the ceremony by his wife, Juneiva.

Sawyer was a basketball standout at Birdville High School near Fort Worth who turned down a Texas Christian University scholarship to play for Coach Wagstaff in 1952. He was co-captain of the 1953-54 squad and a first-team all regional selection. He served in administrative positions with the Grand Prairie Independent School District for 32 years.

2010-2011 Apache Sports Roundup

Fall 2010 Football

- NBA Hall of Famer Karl Malone surprises the Apaches with a preseason appearance to share his insight into life and what it takes to be a success.
- Jeffrey Claybon was named SWJCFC Offensive Player of the Week with his performance against Trinity

Valley Community College as the Apaches to a come from behind for a 29-24 victory.

- Maurice Hood became the 30th Apache football player to be named a first team NJCAA All-American
- Running back Akeem Shavers signs early with Purdue University to begin practices in the Spring.

Men's Soccer

- Apaches win their second consecutive national championship by defeating Cincinnati State Technical & Community College, 5-1, at the national tournament at Pat Hartley Field.
- Sophomores earned a two-year record of 41-0-1

GO APACHES

- Dom Dwyer and Brenton Griffiths were named first team NJCAA All-Americans
- Dwyer was named NJCAA Men's Soccer Div. 1 National Player of the Week after a 5-goal, 2-assist performance over a 30-game span.
- Dwyer is named National Player of the Year after scoring a NJCAA leading 37 goals. Dwyer also received MVP of the 2011 National Tournament.
- Twelve sophomores were signed to NCAA scholarships.

Women's Soccer

- Sophomores appeared in back-to-back National Title games with 1 Championship and 1 runner-up. Sophomores ended their two-year run with an overall record of 36-1-1.
- Beatrice Soto is named NJCAA Women's Soccer Div 1 Goalie of the Week after two shutouts vs. Top 20 teams that led to posting 6 shutouts in 10 games.
- Soto and Claudia Saucedo were named First Team NJCAA All-Americans. Lauren Emmerson was named second team NJCAA All-American.
- Saucedo is named National Player of the Year.

Volleyball

- Hired Ronda Shirley after retirement of long-time Coach Dana Hatch.
- Hosts "Dana Hatch Invitational" to honor Coach Hatch and her contributions to TJC and the Volleyball program. Apache Ladies won 3 out of 4 matches during invitational.
- Battled back in a 5-game set against Navarro to qualify for the District Tournament.

Winter 2010

Men's Basketball

- Mitch Marquis and Malcolm Moore sign early to play at University of Texas at El Paso next year.
- Kader Tapsoba and Jaron Nash sign to play at Texas Tech University next year.

- Malcolm Moore named first team All-Region XIV and third team NJCAA All-American.

Women's Basketball

- Ericka House sets a NJCAA Record with 13 3-point baskets in a 96-92 victory over Weatherford College. House was named Region XIV Player of the Week and NJCAA Player of the Week for her performance.
- Cecilia Okoye is named to Region XIV All-Region Team. Latika Smith earns All-Conference Honors at Region XIV Tournament.
- Markisha Hawkins named second team All-Region XIV and Honorable Mention NJCAA All-American

Spring 2011 Baseball

- Josh Salmon, Matt Sheppard, Eric Weiss, and Jason Jester were selected to play in the Fuddruckers Junior College All-Star Weekend held at Baylor University.
- Jason Jester early signs with Texas A&M University and Josh Salmon early signs with Henderson State to play next year.
- Matt Sheppard named NJCAA Baseball Division 3 Pitcher of the Week after picking up his second win of the season with a 3-strikeout, 2-hit performance that gave the Apaches a 13-2 win over former conference rival Brookhaven College.
- Hosts second "K's for Cancer" event, earning more than \$2,000 for American Cancer Society.
- The Apaches were the NJCAA Division 3's top-ranked team at the close of the regular season, but missed the opportunity to qualify for the World Series when they were defeated for the second time in four days by Eastfield College on May 16. The Apaches finished the season with a mark of 38-12.

Men's Golf

- Has won 5 of the 7 tournaments so far in the 2010-2011 season.
- Won both home tournaments this year
- Finished 6th at the NJCAA National Championships in Scottsboro, Ala., in May.

Women's Golf

- Jacki Marshall wins the University of Mary Hardin Baylor and UT Tyler tournaments, was co-champion at Texas A&M Commerce tournament, and was runner-up at the Hal Sutton Intercollegiate and Sam Houston State tournaments.
- Jacki Marshall signs to play at University of Oklahoma next year.
- Apache Ladies finished 8th at the NJCAA National Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla., in May.

Men's Tennis

- Wins the USTA/ITA Regionals this fall and Region XIV Tournament this spring.
- Billy Bishop signs to play at Marist College and Peter Thomason signs to play at the University of Arkansas next year.
- Placed 2nd in the NJCAA National Championships in Plano, in May.

Women's Tennis

- Wins the USTA/ITA Regionals this fall and the Region XIV Tournament this spring.
- Sun Wen signs to play at Texas A&M University next year.
- Won the NJCAA National Championship in Tucson, Ariz., in May.

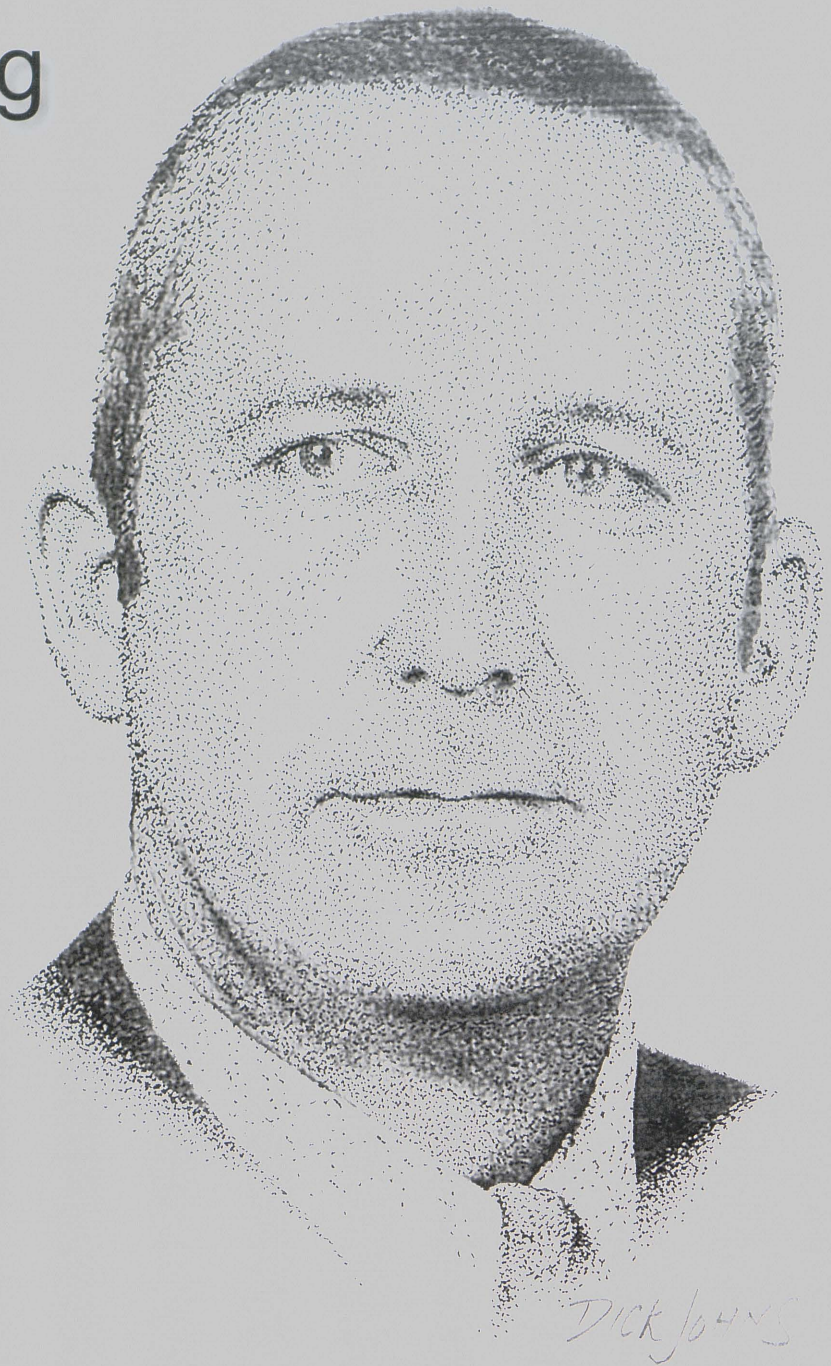


Follow the Apaches and Apache Ladies sports teams all year long at www.apacheathletics.com

Remembering a man who inspired so many

By Fred M. Peters

Director, Marketing & Public Affairs



Kenneth Lewis and his wife Patsy had spent most of the evening in the pasture trying to get a new calf to nurse. It was something the couple had done countless times before at their ranch west of Tyler.

Helping young calves and young people get what their bodies and minds needed to thrive was a common thread in the life of Kenneth Lewis.

While enjoying fellowship with members of the East Texas Farm and Ranch Club the following evening, March 22, Lewis suffered massive heart failure and passed away a few days later. He leaves behind a legacy of helping and encouraging others.

"The stories of the students he helped would take a week to tell," said Rev. Gerry Giles, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Tyler, where Lewis had been a member for 71 years.

Those who worked with Lewis or had sought his help during his 45 years as dean of admissions and registrar at TJC are familiar with those stories.

David Thedford of Tyler credits Mr. Lewis with helping him to stay focused academically. Thedford recalled that Mr. Lewis also was helpful to his son, Russell.

Kenneth Lewis at TJC

1960-1965 - Instructor, Agriculture

1966-1967 - Instructor,
Agriculture/Director, Evening
College

1967-1969 - Instructor,
Agriculture/Registrar

1969-1973 - Registrar

1973-1982 - Admissions/Registrar

1982-2005 - Dean, Admissions



Kenneth Lewis, center, is joined by, left to right, by Patsy Lewis, Janna Chancey, Pat Beam, Mechelle Matthews and Shelia Jones at his 2005 retirement party.

"I had two sons who went to TJC," Thedford said. "One of them told me one day that he was disappointed because he wasn't going to be able to work his job and attend TJC the way his classes had been scheduled. I told him to call Mr. Lewis. ... He called Mr. Lewis and Mr. Lewis told him, 'Russ, if you'll come over to my house and tell me what classes you want to take and when you want to take them, I'll put you in.' Russ said, 'But, the teachers said the classes are already full.' Mr. Lewis said, 'Russ, the classes aren't full until I say they're full.'"

Janna Chancey and Denny Yarbrough worked in the admissions and registrar's office, respectively, with Lewis for many years. They recall having heard those words many times.

"It was all about the student to him," Yarbrough said. "The kids came first."

"The other side of that was that if a faculty member called in with a need, he would try to work with them, too," Chancey said. "If they had a family issue and couldn't help with registration, he understood."

"Russ, the classes aren't full until I say they're full."

Kenneth Lewis

Long-time history instructor Linda Cross recalls that had she not encountered Lewis when she came to register for classes her first day on campus, she might have been discouraged and changed her plans altogether.

"When I went up to register that day,

my daughter Suzanne was 3 years old and Caldwell School had just opened. She could go there 8-12, three days a week. So I was thinking I could register to take classes on those days and get off in time to pick her up," she recalled. "Well, they just didn't do things that way back then."

Cross said the TJC rules at the time required a full schedule of courses to be stretched across a five-day schedule.

"He asked me what I was going to do on Tuesdays and Thursdays and I told him I wasn't going to take classes on those days. He looked at me and said, 'Cross ... are you any kin to Jerry Cross or Newt Cross?' I told him I was married to Jerry and that Newt was my brother-in-law. And that was all he needed to know."

Both Jerry and Newt Cross had taken Lewis's agriculture class, she said.

"Any kind of connections with a farm or agriculture and he was on your side."

Years later, when Cross returned to teach history at TJC, she would seek his advice about ideas for class projects.

"It was almost like a father figure there on campus. He had a way of immediately putting a person at ease. Nothing was ever as bad as I figured it was. He was a good sounding board."

Encouraging others seemed to be a specialty for Lewis.

"Enrolling in college can be very intimidating for someone who is 17 or 18 years old; I was 33 years old and had my moments of uncertainty and insecurity," said Alan Nichols.

Nichols elected to leave the construction industry and set a new course for his life in 1996. His first step was to sit down and talk with Mr. Lewis, whom he knew from St. Paul United Methodist Church. Soon thereafter he had a student assistant job in the registrar's office.

"If a student was having trouble getting the enrollment process going or was simply overwhelmed, Mr. Lewis would personally take the student through each phase of the enrollment process. If they needed financial assistance, he would personally take them to Financial Aid. If they needed assistance in obtaining a transcript, he would take them to Transcripts. If they needed housing, he would personally arrange for them to meet with the appropriate personnel. In short, I learned two things working with and around Mr. Lewis: (1) if you wanted to go to college he made sure you got the opportunity; (2) life to Mr. Lewis was black and white or, more simply put, 'right or wrong'."



Kenneth and his canine companion prepare to make the rounds.

Nichols graduated from TJC with an associate's in natural science and received a certificate in licensed vocational nursing. He transferred to The University of Texas at Tyler and received a bachelor's degree in nursing, then continued his studies at Texas Tech University, where he received a master's degree in nursing/acute care nurse practitioner. He has also completed post-master's studies in geriatrics at the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston.

"To say Mr. Lewis was instrumental in my quest for an education would be an understatement. He not only gave me the opportunity to go to college, but also gave me the confidence and courage to do so. Going to TJC with Mr. Lewis's guidance changed my life."



Lewis with his grandson Luke and son, Larry.

To those who worked in higher education, Lewis was the respected authority on matters of a registrar's office. He served on the state committee that wrote the common course numbering system and the state committee that revised reporting standards.

Duane Durrett, registrar at Weatherford College, recalled at the time of Lewis' retirement party in 2005 that he had served as a mentor to others who work to register and account for student enrollment.

"If you think back to when he first started, so much has changed. He started out when schedules and class lists were hand written on a piece of paper, transcripts were hand typed. ... From punch cards to online registration, he has been through it all, and in the course of his tenure, Tyler Junior College has flourished," he wrote.

Among the many there to wish Lewis well in his retirement and thank him for his years of service to TJC was then TJC registrar Trey Hattaway. Hattaway had met Lewis at a Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions (TACRAO) event when Hattaway was working for Texas Tech University.

"The effect he had on a room of professionals was nothing short of incredible," Hattaway said. "When he started to speak, everyone, and I mean everyone, stopped their side conversations and listened. As I would come to learn, they stopped for two reasons. First, he knew and understood what he was talking about. And secondly, any response he had

was one that considered students first and had their best interest in mind."

Lewis contacted Hattaway in 2002 to tell him of an opening at TJC for a registrar.

"I had worked in higher education for more than 10 years but never in this area. So, I asked him why he thought he would want someone with no experience. He said, 'I know how you deal with people and we need someone who will do what is best for people. The other stuff you can learn.' It is the greatest compliment I have ever received, because in my opinion, there was no one better at taking care of people than Mr. Lewis."

Chancey and Yarbrough echoed that sentiment.

"I had two premature babies, my father died, there were so many things that have happened and he was always so supportive," Chancey said. "Family was always first."

To this day, Chancey refers to her office as being "Mr. Lewis's old office." Chancey returned to TJC in 2006 to serve as executive director of enrollment management and was assigned the office Mr. Lewis occupied for his last 13 years at TJC.

"Sometimes it feels like I'm playing principal for the day," she said.

In talking about her days working with Lewis, Chancey remembered that he would frequently use his own money to help a student in need. Cashier Janet Dennis confirmed.

"He would come over with his credit card, with the student, and he would pay for tuition, he would pay for dorm fees, for meals, for Phi Theta

Kappa initiation fees," Dennis said. "He even paid for graduation stoles. And he would tell the student that this was a gift and they didn't have to repay him, but a lot of times they did. Students would show up – years later sometimes – and bring him money to repay him for what he'd done."

TJC graduate Cliff Caskey had Lewis as an instructor for agriculture in the early 1960s.

"I remember that on the first day of the Ag Economics class, Kenneth said that he couldn't believe he was teaching Ag Economics because he just barely got through the course at (Texas) A&M. After grading our first test, Kenneth came to class and asked how many of us wanted to farm or ranch for a living. All of us held up our hands, at which point Kenneth exclaimed that we would either need to inherit or steal the farm because we were not smart enough to buy it."

Caskey said that when the Apache Belle Guards wanted to sponsor the first TJC all-college rodeo, Lewis provide direction and support. It led to the creation of the TJC Rodeo Club and a tradition that carried on for years.



"Papa K" helps his granddaughter, Abby, bottle-feed a young calf.

"As many of Kenneth's former students, I came to consider him a friend for life who was always interested in hearing what I was doing in both my personal life and my chosen career in the field of agriculture," Caskey said.

Away from the college, Lewis was active in farming and ranching – his first love – and in the East Texas State Fair.

"What he did was unequalled by anyone else that's ever been involved

in the East Texas State Fair and the Junior Livestock Show,” said Lonny Uzzell, TJC board member and East Texas State Fair Association board member.

“He was the go-to person for rules and regulations, he was the person who scheduled all the events. ... He worked virtually overseeing everything that went on at the junior show and there was never a single day that anyone can remember during the junior show that Kenneth was not at the fair. He came early and he stayed late.


“His commitment to seeing young people succeed through education was clear. He chaired our committee to give scholarships to students. ... He was very passionate about that process and he had a long passion for working with beefmaster cattle.”

Last year, Lewis watched as his granddaughter, Abby, managed the Junior Beefmaster Breeders Association show at the East Texas State Fairgrounds.

“He had that familiar smile on his face that day,” Uzzell recalled.

Lewis served as president of the fair association from 1996 through 1998 and as executive director in 2006. He was a board member of St. Paul United Methodist Church and had served as president of the East Texas Farm & Ranch Club and as chairman of the Junior Livestock Show at the East Texas State Fair. He was a lifetime member of Beefmaster Breeders United and a member of the Northeast Texas Beefmaster Breeders Association. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Helping Hand Award from Junior Beefmaster Breeders Association and the Build East Texas Bill Clements Memorial Award for his work with the Smith County Livestock and Forage Improvement Committee and Smith County 4-H.

Patsy Lewis, Kenneth’s wife of 54 years, said she has been overwhelmed with the support received from friends, TJC graduates and former work colleagues and members of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Contributions to the TJC Foundation and St. Paul children’s fund continue to pour in, she said. 

In their own words

“When I think back on my life, I’m quite certain that no individual affected my life more than Mr. Lewis. Ultimately, my career was the result of the encouragement and guidance he gave me. And my fondest memories still remain the Saturdays spent catching cattle with my dad and Mr. Lewis.”

Charlie Hale,
Des Moines, Iowa

“Mr. Lewis was my first real boss. Working for him shaped me into the person I am today. He was a hard worker and very sweet man.”

Kristy Magnuson,
Tyler

“Kenneth was one of the cornerstones of my life. Such a wonderful mentor and friend. He kept me in college and was always there to guide me in the right direction.”

Ben Harned,
Amarillo

“I will always remember him because of what kind and sweet comforting words he said to me many, many years ago before he retired and I was so scared to start TJC. He was so very sweet.”

Felicia Thomas,
Tyler

“Dean Lewis was my first employer as I worked for him in the Registrar’s Office when I began college. He then helped me pursue my degrees in Commerce and found me a job there. His integrity was beyond reproach, and I always knew he would do anything to help.”

Charlotte George,
Lindale

“You will always be the John Wayne of Tyler Junior College. You will be missed.”

Janet Dennis,
Tyler

“As many of Kenneth’s former students, I came to consider him a friend for life who was always interested in hearing what I was doing in both my personal life and my chosen career in the field of agriculture.”

Cliff Caskey,
San Marcos

“When I arrived at TJC, there were those who thought that Mr. Lewis was tied too much to the past and unwilling to change. They could not have been further off base. Mr. Lewis was one of the most progressive people I have worked for and with. What he did not do was change for change’s sake. Mr. Lewis would always listen to ideas of making things simpler and better as long as you could prove to him that it made things BETTER – better for students or better for the people who worked under him to help students.”

Trey Hattaway,
Kilgore

“As one of the first people I met as an incoming freshman, Mr. Lewis represented everything that made me love Tyler Junior College. I had the privilege to work for him both as a student and as a staff member, but he was much more than an employer – he was a mentor and a friend. He instilled the importance of compassion and of working tirelessly to ensure that no student was left behind. He is one of the greatest men I have ever known, and I will be forever grateful for the impact he had on my life and my career.”

Julie Pickle Whitt,
Hurst

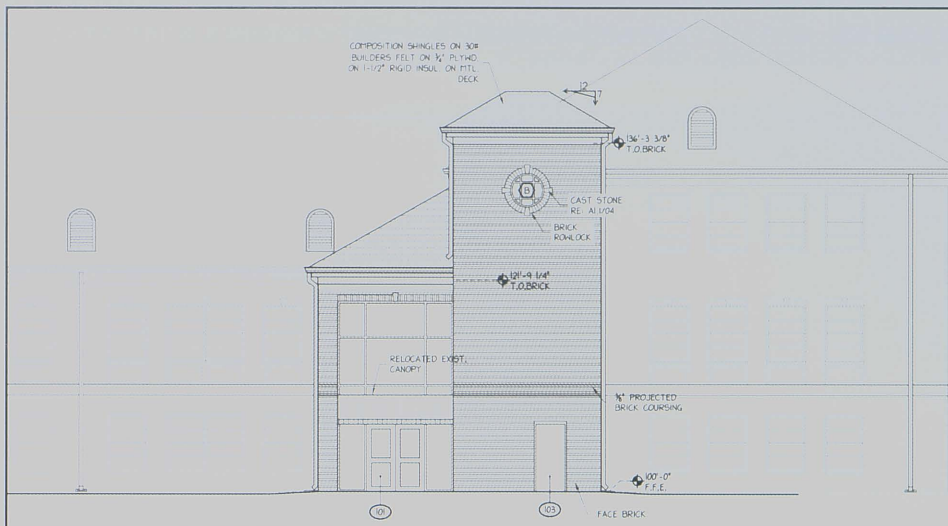


All Access:

College strives to keep pathways open during renovations

By Elise Mullinix
Assistant Director, Marketing & Public Affairs

Promise No. 1: A Quality Education



In an effort to meet, and in some cases exceed, Texas Accessibility Standards, an elevator is being installed in one of the college's oldest buildings, Potter Hall. The elevator will be operational early next year.

Recent visitors to the TJC main campus have undoubtedly noticed some changes taking place.

Crucial upgrades to the College's infrastructure have led to holes and trenches cutting through campus, prompting some classes – if not entire buildings and offices – to be temporarily relocated. Regular routes to and from parking lots, the library and other educational buildings are not where they once were.

With major upgrades ongoing in the Genecov Science Building, classrooms and labs have been relocated to the Apache Woodlands, a grouping of portable units established on the far northeast corner of campus.

Part of the construction projects include bringing older TJC buildings up to Texas Accessibility Standards, said Bill King, TJC executive director of facilities and construction.

"We are making sure the upgrades meet, and in many cases, exceed those standards," King said.

Even for students with no physical disabilities, the changes have been a challenge; so imagine what it must be like for someone in a wheelchair.

Brett Burks knows.

Due to a complication during childbirth, he has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair; so he has a lifetime of experience in dealing with the day-to-day tasks that come with getting where he needs to go.

A communications major from Canton, Burks just finished his fourth semester at TJC. He would like to be a radio personality someday.

"I have honestly not had any problems working with TJC on any needs that I've had," Burks said. "Whenever I need something, I let Mrs. Rapp know and she and her staff get right on it."



When making plans for his accessibility needs on campus, Canton sophomore Brett Burks' first call is to the TJC Student Services office.

"Mrs. Rapp" is Margaret Rapp in the TJC Support Services office. She is the go-to person for students who require assistance, whether it is for physical or learning challenges.

"All students with disabilities are treated on an individual basis," she said, adding that the top two issues that come through her office are learning disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD).

TJC Access-Related Renovations and Improvements, 2010-11

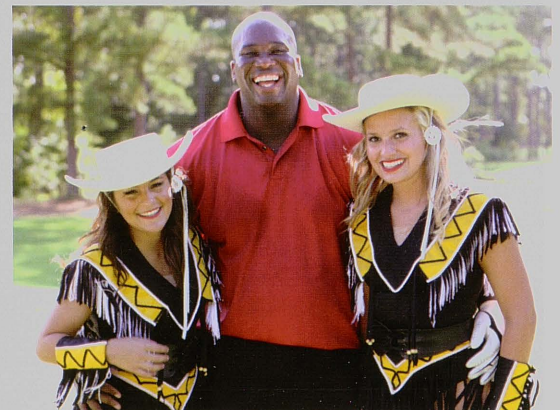
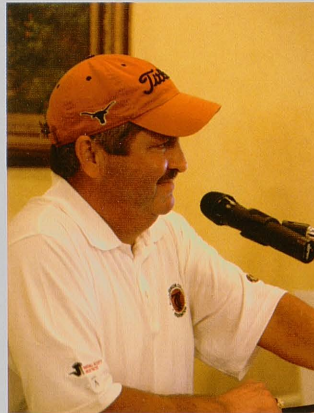
- **White Administrative Services Center** – Re-poured handicapped parking area sidewalk for improved access; on the north side of the building, bricks with water erosion damage were reset
- **Jenkins Hall** – Re-poured slab of concrete and added grid pattern for better access and traction at west entry
- **Vaughn Library** – Restrooms that previously were not up to Texas Accessibility Standards were replaced beginning with the second floor; installed new chair lift; new automatic doors were installed at both south and north entries
- **Wise Cultural Arts** – Restrooms renovated to meet Texas Accessibility Standards
- **Ornelas Health & Physical Education Center** – Installed an access ramp in front of building; replaced a chair lift and ladder in the swimming pool to improve access
- **Wagstaff Gym** – With new construction, all of Wagstaff meets Texas Accessibility Standards
- **Rogers Student Center** – All restroom renovations on first floor are TAS compliant; new automatic doors were installed for the Academic Advising office (2nd floor); a new compliant access ramp is being added to the east side at the faculty parking lot
- **Genecov** – Replacing an elevator to be TAS compliant
- **Pirtle Technology** – First floor restrooms were renovated to provide handicap access; east side ramp near intramural field was re-poured to meet TAS requirements
- **Brookshire Tennis Complex** – Renovated facility now features improved access
- **Potter Hall** – Adding three-story elevator and renovating restrooms and providing handicap access
- **Two new facilities, the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center and Louise H. and Joseph Z. Ornelas Residential Complex, are up to TAS throughout**
- **West Campus – RTDC** – Restroom renovations in RTDC improved handicap access

(continued on page 31)

TJC HOMECOMING WEEKEND • SEPT. 17 & 18, 2010 • TJC AND TRINITY MOTHER FRANCES ROSE STADIUM



TJC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT • SEPT. 9, 2010 • EAGLE'S BLUFF COUNTRY CLUB



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FOUNDATION NEWS

Promises kept – and more promises to keep

By Becca Anderson

For more than 80 years, Tyler Junior College has made promises to support its students, give back to the community it serves, and ensure a bright future for generations to come.

The faculty, staff and donors are passionate about providing a quality education, vibrant student life and service to the community. When economic challenges arise, they affect TJC as well, but they don't negate the promises made in the past.

In February 2009, the "Promises to Keep" Scholarship Campaign was launched to offset a shortfall in scholarship funds that resulted from suppressed endowment payouts during the economic downturn. This urgent need prompted the campaign that was organized by the TJC Foundation Board, the Tyler Junior College Board of Trustees and the TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The campaign task force included Kevin Fowler (TJC director of human resources), Janet Hills (TJC alum, community volunteer), Micheal Lavender (TJC alum, Firstbank), James Sheridan (TJC alum, former TJC Alumni Association president, Southside Bank), Idalia Trent (TJC chemistry professor) and EJ Unegbu (TJC alum, TJC coordinator for professional development.)

"Education is the driving force of our nation, and we must support this endeavor if our country is to remain strong and be competitive in a global marketplace," Sheridan said. "Education is one of the best investments we can make. The leaders of tomorrow need our support today."

During the campaign, more than 450 contributors stepped forward to help meet the \$350,000 goal and to ensure scholarship funds for the 2009 and 2010 school years. This generous effort impacted many students attending the College. With record enrollment, the success of the "Promises to Keep" initiative will reverberate for many years to come

as students move on to greater academic achievement and future careers.

With ongoing challenges for the nation's economy, the "Promises to Keep" Scholarship Campaign is transitioning from an emergency effort to an ongoing program in order to help fill the annual need for scholarships. As tuition at four-year institutions becomes less attainable for some students, TJC's enrollment continues to rise, nearing 12,000 students this past fall; and approximately 50 percent of these students required some form of financial assistance.

Tyler Junior College is attractive to students near and far because of the quality of its two-year programs. Ideal for students planning to pursue a bachelor's degree, the College also prepares students for more immediate careers and provides a much-needed workforce training for high demand technical fields. With unemployment at its highest in recent memory, TJC is also fulfilling a vital role by assisting adult students to retrain for new careers.

The College's dedicated faculty and staff are passionate about ensuring the future through quality education. For the last two years, TJC personnel have given approximately \$42,000 to the "Promises" campaign, and their gifts helped TJC meet the two-year \$350,000 goal.

"The Promises scholarship has been a lifeline for me. Simple things such as books and other supplies are not a hassle, and I can focus on one thing: school."

Jawoine Hawkins



Sarah Harrison

Sarah Harrison, English professor and chair of the English language studies program, is a 35-year veteran in the College's classrooms. She previously honored her parents by endowing the W. Oscar and Marguerite

"Education is one of the best investments we can make. The leaders of tomorrow need our support today."

James Sheridan

Herrin Award for Excellence and gladly contributed to the "Promises" effort.

"My folks were able to provide what I needed during my college days – but they always stressed that not everyone is so fortunate and that we must always reach out in any way we can to invest our extra resources in those who will also ultimately 'pass it along,'" Harrison said. "Without the community college, many people with great potential might not have the chance to discover and develop their gifts. This college that I know and love is one that continues to offer students that chance."

Librarian Robin Insalaco is equally committed to the "Promises" initiative. "Education is one of the most expensive investments a person can make, but it also offers one of the biggest returns. TJC really does help the student's educational dollars go farther," she said. "When you want to try and give back, I think you look around where you are and then start giving there. Think globally, act locally."

Grand Prairie native Jawoine Hawkins is a speech and theater major. He would like to be an actor or work in mass communications and public relations. A "Promises" scholarship funded by faculty and staff has made his time at TJC possible.

"When I heard of the expenses in college, I was really pushed away," Hawkins said. "Seeing the price of one book, or even the cost of living; college was like a huge mountain that I didn't have the guts or the equipment to climb."

"Though apprehensive, I signed up to be an Apache; that choice was the defining moment in my life. The 'Promises' scholarship has been a lifeline for me. Simple things such as books and other supplies are not a hassle, and I can focus on one thing: school."

FOUNDATION NEWS

Raised in Hawaii, Christina Eichelberger came to TJC specifically to take part in the College's radiology program, which is one of the top 10 such programs in the country. She looks forward to studying advanced radiology and cyber technology – "Star Trek as reality," she calls it.



Christina Eichelberger

"Before, I attended school part time while working 30 to 75 hours a week," Eichelberger said. "This year has been the only time I could attend full time, work two jobs and still be involved in student activities as president of the Interfaith Club."

Both students encourage their peers to investigate available scholarships and other financial opportunities.

"TJC honors what it states," said Eichelberger. "Every person on staff and faculty truly believes and lives it. It's not a gimmick; it's a creed they live by."

Writer Robert Brault said, "Each morning I gaze at the eastern horizon, and if the sun keeps its promises, I keep mine." As long as new students enter the halls of TJC there'll be promises to keep to ensure their success – just as they have promises to fulfill to the future. To give to the "Promises to Keep" scholarship program, please contact the Tyler Junior College Foundation at (903) 510- 2718 or visit the TJC website at www.tjc.edu and click the "Donate Now" button.

Luminant offers scholarship for two-year degree

More than 100 students got a glimpse of the future on Feb. 27, as they toured Luminant Academy at the Tyler Junior College West Campus.

The College and the company launched the Power Track program which is designed to promote career development through a scholarship offer.

The company will offer 30 scholarships to qualified high school graduates, with plans to expand that to 40 next year.



Luminant Academy on the TJC West Campus is equipped with state-of-the art simulators to prepare students for their places in the power plant technology workforce.

Students accepted into the program will participate in TJC's two-year degree program in power plant technology.

In addition to paying for students' tuition and books, the company also will provide students with a paid internship and possibly a job offer.

TJC President Dr. Mike Metke said the program is a win not only for the students involved, but also for the community as a whole. In addition, it fits in with the mayor's industry growth initiative.

Luminant is one of three companies owned by Energy Future Holdings Corp. It is a power-producing company that operates lignite, gas and nuclear plants around Texas.

The company operates a job-training program out of TJC's Skills Training Center on the West Campus, but up until this year that training program has been only for Luminant's employees.

In January, the TJC board of trustees approved a power plant technology program and the company now will offer this credit program and give students the opportunity to start a career in the process.

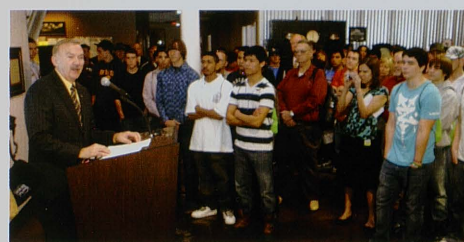
Michael Fischer, Luminant's vice president of organizational talent, said the company is going to lose an estimated 500 people to retirement in the next five years, which means they will have plenty of openings.

He said the energy industry provides a well-paying job with good benefits and ongoing education.

"Luminant can be a career, not just a job," he said.

Tommy Neyland, Luminant's educational outreach manager, said high school students often can feel a bit lost after graduation, but this opportunity can provide them with some direction and opportunity.

Students from all over East Texas attended the event and toured the Luminant Academy facilities. The company has reached out to high schools in the areas surrounding its plants.



TJC President Dr. Mike Metke speaks during Luminant's Power Track scholarship launch.

Seth Mahaffey, 16, a Centerville High School junior, said the program appeals to him because he is interested in getting hands-on job experience and moving quickly into the workforce.

The company launched its Luminant Power Track website and is accepting applications. Visit www.luminant.com/luminantpowertrack/ for more information.

FOUNDATION NEWS

2010 golf tournament scores big for scholarships

By Becca Anderson

For some, the game of golf is one of skill and frequent frustration. Put that game in the hands of the Tyler Junior College Foundation, and it becomes an avenue of hope and success. The TJC Foundation organized its 23rd annual golf tournament, held Sept. 9 at Eagle's Bluff Country Club.

The HGR Scholarship Golf Tournament benefitting the TJC Foundation was the most successful event to date, with 155 golfers participating, raising a record \$41,000 for scholarships. As a result, 41 students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2011-12 year.



McCoy (left) meets TJC President Dr. Mike Metke. For more golf tournament photos, see page 16.

This marked the first year the tournament benefitted from a title sponsor. HGR General Contractors provided financial support and sponsored individual teams to make the tournament a success.

"All of Smith County benefits greatly from the efforts of Tyler Junior College to prepare its students for success in the economic community," said HGR partner Randy Reynolds. "A well-educated base will benefit us both economically and socially. HGR is proud to work as a partner with TJC to provide the best opportunities possible for our students."

HGR has been a good community partner with the college, and very involved in work on TJC's main campus addressing maintenance and infrastructure needs.



Special guest Brad McCoy (back row, center) is surrounded by TJC students who received scholarships thanks to the HGR Scholarship Golf Tournament benefitting the TJC Foundation.

The event included pre-tournament pictures with special guest Brad McCoy, athletic director of Flippen Sports and a successful former high school football coach.

Athletic talent runs through the McCoy family, including his sons, Colt, a University of Texas football legend who now plays for the Cleveland Browns, and Case, who now plays for UT.

At a luncheon sponsored by the Louis & Peaches Owen Family Foundation, McCoy spoke about his experiences in coaching champions and the importance of setting high goals. He is passionate about the role education plays in making those goals a reality.

The luncheon is a special time each year because the scholarship recipients, who all help with the tournament, are introduced individually. "What a great way to put faces with our cause!" said Paul Latta, 2010 and 2011 tournament chair. "Countless thousands of East Texans – including me – can thank TJC for contributing to the success they have enjoyed in their lives. Graduates play a vital role in numerous career fields in our community. The TJC Foundation golf tournament is an avenue whereby sponsors can contribute to the continuing mission of TJC to provide affordable higher education to the people of East Texas."

Latta worked with a community advisory committee to make the tournament a success. Other members included Loren Bennett (Eiche, Mapes and Company, Inc.), Claude Henry (Texas Bank and Trust), Eddie Howard (East Texas Medical Center), Darin Newhouse (Henry & Peters, PC), Freddie Sanchez (FirstChoice Cooperative), Scott

Sawyer (Eiche, Mapes and Company, Inc.) and Eleanor Stringer (community volunteer).

McCoy congratulated the guests at the luncheon on the record \$41,000 in scholarships raised from tournament proceeds, then challenged them to set their goals even higher, especially when seeing the impact the scholarships make on recipients.

As chair for the next tournament, Latta has taken that challenge to heart. "We have changed the venue for 2011 to make the tournament more convenient for Tylerites and to allow more space to expand the luncheon," he said.

After the luncheon, the 2010 tournament got under way with a 6-man scramble, and the day ended with an awards reception sponsored by SSC Service Solutions.

The need for scholarships for Tyler Junior College students is ongoing. Particularly in these economically challenging times, many students are forced to make difficult choices regarding their higher education. Many TJC students are working two jobs as well as attending the College, and some are retraining after losing a job. TJC's enrollment is the highest it's ever been, with nearly 12,000 enrolled in the fall of 2010 and approximately 50 percent of those students requiring some form of financial assistance.

Art student Wendy Stone is one of the recipients of a tournament scholarship. "Without your kindness, I would be struggling to pay for tuition, and perhaps not attending college at all," she said.

Nursing major Tayler Woodward agrees on the importance of her scholarship. "I am the third child out of four, but the first to

attend college. You have helped me start on the path of success."

Perhaps when the economy is most challenging, people have a renewed appreciation of the value of education and the importance of providing it for the upcoming generation. "I think we've proven that it's possible to raise more scholarship money even in these difficult economic times," Latta said. "Higher education is a worthy cause for fundraising, and TJC graduates are in demand and benefit all of East Texas."

Latta knows first-hand of what he speaks. "As a local dentist, I have a deep appreciation for the impact that TJC graduates have on our community. All three of my dental hygienists completed their training at TJC. Both of my dental assistants received their training and certification through the College; and my wife Kay and I are both TJC graduates."

Reynolds is eager to see the scholarship recipients put their education to good use. "It is our hope the students who benefit from these scholarships will make a positive impact on our community," he said. "The heart of the economic engine in Smith County lies within the medical and college industries. HGR is proud to play a small part in supporting TJC to help students reach their full potential."

Students like Glenn Berryman, who is studying law enforcement, are equally enthusiastic. "I have always wanted to do something to help my community, and now you have helped me achieve that dream," he said.

Scholarships not only ease the financial burden for deserving TJC students but also reward students who serve as goodwill ambassadors for the community through one of the College's many extracurricular programs. They also enable TJC to recruit the best and brightest from the area, enabling them to pursue their higher education right here in East Texas.

Tyler Junior College will be celebrating its 85th year of service to the community in 2011. The 2011 tournament is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 8, at Hollytree Country Club in Tyler. Mike Doocy, veteran Fox4 sports anchor in Dallas, will be the special tournament guest. For more information on the 2011 tournament, call 903-510-2249 or visit www.tjc.edu.

Your Generosity Changes Lives

For 23 years, the Tyler Junior College Foundation golf tournament has provided much-needed scholarships. With record enrollment nearing 12,000 and approximately 50 percent of the College's students requiring financial assistance, scholarships continue to be a top priority.

This year's **HGR General Contractors Scholarship Golf Tournament** benefitting the **TJC Foundation** set a record for sponsor participation, and tournament proceeds will fund 41 scholarships at \$1,000 each.

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who sponsored the 2010 tournament. Your generosity changes lives.

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Last Dance:

Flynn retires as Apache Belles director

By Elise Mullinix
*Assistant Director,
Marketing &
Public Affairs*

Promise No. 2: A Vibrant Student Life

When she interviewed for her job as Apache Belles director in May of 1984, Ruth Flynn said she was asked what she thought she would be able to bring to the precision dance team.

"I think I said something funny like, 'Well, I guess you'll have to hire me and find out,' and they laughed," she said. "But really, I had an idea of what I wanted. I wanted to instill the discipline and remain true to the traditions that had already been put in place by (former director and choreographer) Mildred Stringer and Al Gilliam, and maybe add a few of my own.

"That's what you have to do. You have to find your own way."

In May, Flynn says goodbye to the Apache Belles she's led for 27 years but, as she has always said, "Once a Belle, always a Belle."

On the day of the interview for this article, Flynn is between rehearsals for her final Spring Show as Apache Belles director.

Spring Show is special to her. It is a tradition she implemented at TJC, and she hopes it is a tradition that will continue.



Flynn gives direction during an outdoor practice.

"When I came here, there wasn't really something to focus on in the spring semester, so that's how it started," she said.

Since then, the Spring Show has become a hallmark of the Apache Belles' performance year.



During her years as Apache Belles director, Ruth Flynn met numerous dignitaries. Here, she meets President George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush.

"It really has taken on a life of its own," she said. "It's a time of celebration and hard work for the current line, and it's a time of reunion for all the girls who came before. We have so many devoted girls who come back year after year to gather and relive their days as Apache Belles.

"It's like having our own family reunion."

Lately, Flynn has been thinking back on her days as the Belles' director and she vividly remembers her job interview 27 years ago.

Being head choreographer of the rival Kilgore Rangerettes at the time, Flynn wasn't sure how the process would go but, she said, it seemed to be the right fit for everyone.

"The night before the interview, I couldn't sleep," she said. "There was just no way. So I sat out on my patio and prayed. I said, 'Lord, please give me some sort of sign and let me know if this is what you think I should do,' then this gust of wind came up and washed over me and I said, 'That's good enough for me' and I guess it worked out."

Day 1 was a blur, she said.

"On that first day, (former Apache Belles director) Athena Russell was sitting on the steps of the Genecov building, waiting for me when I got to work," she said.

Russell led Flynn to Gentry Gym, which was where the Belles were housed at the time; and they set about going through

uniforms and props, and she began to get a feel for the place.

Soon after that, her first group of Apache Belles reported for duty.

"The girls were great. I brought the sophomores in before the freshmen, so we could all get to know each other," she said. "They could not have been more welcoming. They were excited. We were excited together and just ready to see what came next."

"It consumes your life for however long you choose to do it," she said.

"You have to love it. You have to live and breathe it."

Ruth Flynn

What came next were almost three decades of performances, appearances and travel to places such as Austria, Germany, Hawaii, Ireland, France, Germany, Mexico, Ireland, Walt Disney World and Washington, D.C. The Apache Belles have performed for nine U.S. presidents and numerous Texas governors. They have entertained audiences during half times at two National Football League Super Bowls; NCAA Sugar, Gator, Bluebonnet and Orange Bowls; games of the Dallas Cowboys and the Houston Oilers; for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks and San Antonio Spurs; and at Texas Rangers baseball games.

(continued on page 31)

Mentoring Minds and making a difference

By Elise Mullinix

Assistant Director, Marketing & Public Affairs



Promise No. 3: Community Service

When Michael and Lisa Lujan set out to create their educational materials company Mentoring Minds, they sought the wise counsel of some mentoring minds with the know-how to turn their spark of an idea into a successful business.

They received critical support from a variety of East Texas groups, including Tyler Junior College's Small Business Development Center, Tyler Economic Development Corporation, and the Tyler chapter of SCORE.

The Lujans have been named the Small Business Administration Texas Small Business Persons of the Year for 2011. This is the first time this honor has been awarded to an East Texas business, according to the Fort Worth SBA Regional office.

In May they will represent the entire state of Texas at the national conference in Washington, D.C., during National Small Business Week, which honors the estimated 27.2 million small businesses in America.

At a press conference announcing the Lujans' award, Dr. Aubrey Sharpe, TJC dean of continuing studies said TJC has been a supporter of small local businesses for 24 years and finds it a great opportunity to find would-be entrepreneurs with good ideas but don't know how to make it happen.

TJC's SBDC give 60 percent more loans to small businesses than any other entity in the region, he said, adding that a big reason for that is the Lujans.

SBDC Director Don Proudfoot said he had the privilege of working with the Lujans to secure loans for their business and he considers it a privilege to watch their business grow.

According to the SBA website, more than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and small businesses create 60 to 80 percent of new jobs in the country. Announcement of the "Small Business Persons of the Year" tops off the weeklong celebration and the Lujans will proudly represent small, but growing, businesses in the state of Texas.



A press conference was held in March, announcing the Lujans being named the Small Business Administration of Texas Small Business Persons of the Year for 2011. Pictured, from left: TJC President Dr. Mike Metke; Michael Lujan; Lisa Lujan; and SCORE volunteers Leland Ferguson, Carl Bochow and Jon Pressley.

Michael Lujan, a former school administrator, and Lisa Lujan, a former banker, founded Mentoring Minds in 2002 after developing an innovative study aid, designed as a flip chart, that would help elementary teachers and students in Texas better meet new state educational standards. They launched the company from their garage, maxing out their credit cards to print the first 6,000 copies. Less than 10 years later, Mentoring Minds is a full educational publisher, producing innovative learning products with more than \$11 million in 2010 sales. One of the nation's fastest-growing Hispanic-owned businesses, it also ranks No. 344 in Hispanic Business Magazine's 2010 list of the largest U.S. Hispanic-owned firms.

To the Lujans, the key inspiration continues to be "the kiddos", as Michael Lujan fondly refers to the students who reached him from his earliest days as an educator.

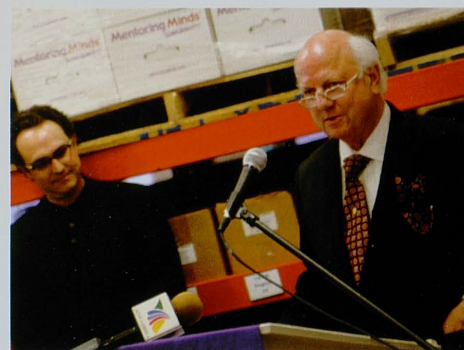
"It's what inspires our growth," he said. "We want to reach educators and kids across the country and our plans for the future will move us out of the 'small' business category very quickly."

Through the rapid growth, the company continues to be based in Tyler, and to pursue its original mission: To develop affordable, effective learning tools that help children think critically – giving them the skills to succeed not just in the classroom, but in life. The company's

learning tools are now used in schools across the United States, reaching students in grades K-12. Through its flagship product, Motivation Math, and other quality learning and teaching aids, Mentoring Minds directly impacts thousands of students each year.

"We did not realize this dream alone," Michael Lujan said. "Thanks must go to our many partners and very dedicated staff for helping us pursue our passion for providing quality educational materials to more than 1 million students in Texas alone."

"Several Tyler area organizations enabled us to take the leap more than eight years ago. Our partnerships with TEDC, the Small Business Development Center at TJC, and the SBA, provided us with a foundation to establish a business and now impact students nationwide." 



Mentoring Minds CEO Robert Bush stands by as TJC Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe speaks during the press conference.

Adventures in Paradise

TJC group visits U.S. troops in Hawaii, rides out tsunami scare

By Elise Mullinix

Assistant Director, Marketing & Public Affairs



What happens when 126 Tyler Junior College Apache Belles, Apache Band members, alumni, parents, faculty and staff take a Spring Break trip to Hawaii?

Quite a lot, actually.

The TJC travelers began their week with a visit to Pearl Harbor, paying their respects at the USS Arizona Memorial, where 1,177 servicemen lost their lives in the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941, and World War II began for the United States.

Following an emotional tour of the Arizona, the group crossed the harbor bridge to the USS Missouri, nicknamed the Mighty Mo, where the Japanese ultimately signed the instrument of formal surrender to the Allied Forces and brought the war to an end on Sept. 2, 1945. The battleship was docked in Tokyo Bay at the time. Upon being decommissioned after the first Gulf War, the Missouri was placed in Pearl Harbor where it now has a permanent home as a museum.

The Apache Belles brought their famous high-kick routines and a dose of Texas hospitality to an appreciative crowd on the deck of the USS Missouri. Later in the week, the Belles spent a day and performed with children of service members on the Kaneohe Bay Marine Base.

Throughout the week, TJC group members soaked up as much island atmosphere as possible, catching rays on Waikiki Beach, checking out the big waves on the North Shore, and trying everything from snorkeling and surfing to parasailing and glider planes – and eating mass quantities of fresh pineapple.

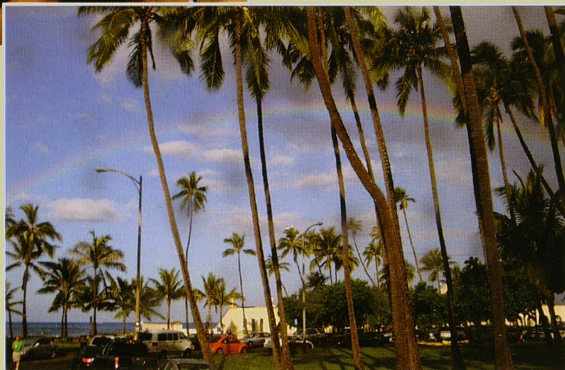
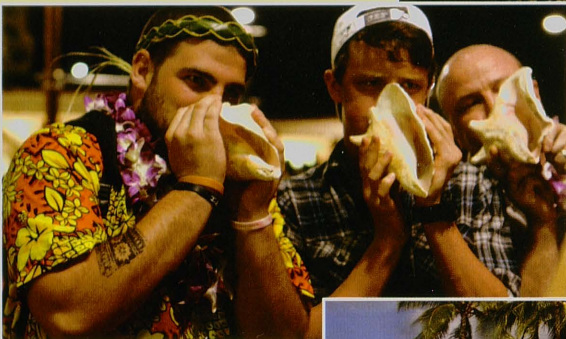
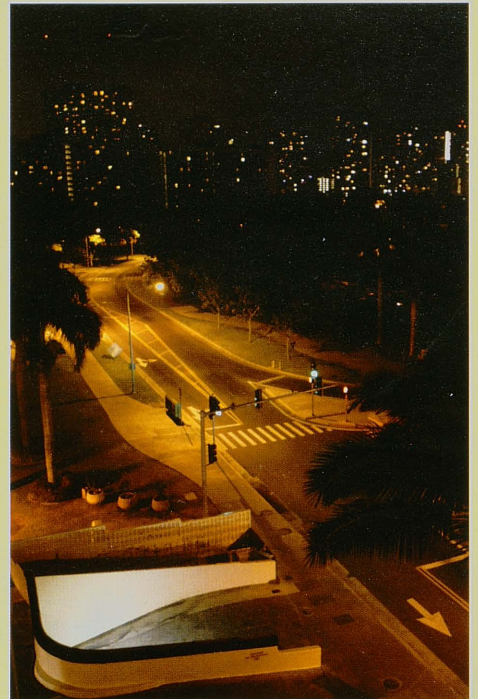
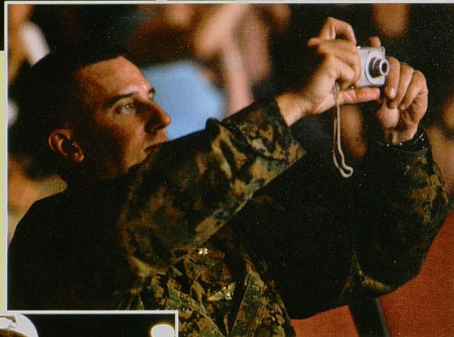
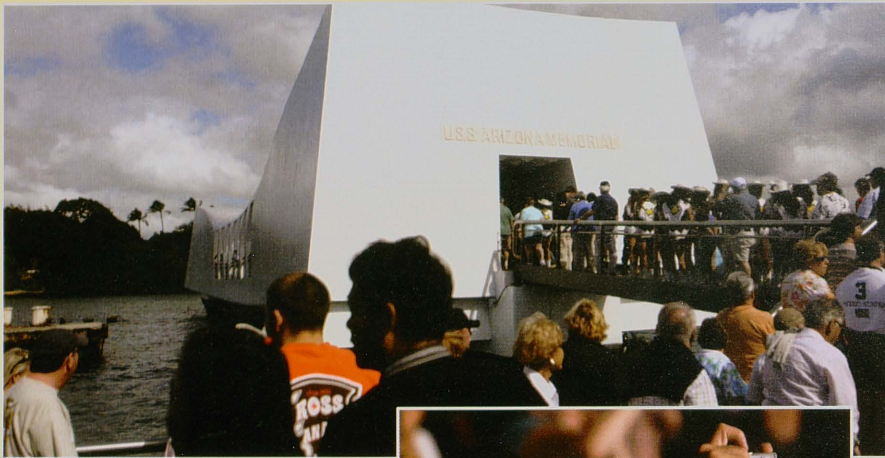
The travelers spent their last day of the trip at the Polynesian Cultural Center, where they experienced an evening luau and an extravaganza of native music, dance, drums, special effects and a fire-spewing volcano.

During the bus ride back to the hotel, the group learned Hawaii had been placed under a tsunami warning due to a massive earthquake that rocked Japan hours earlier. Oahu's warning protocol was put into action, the city of Honolulu was placed on high alert, the streets were evacuated and hotel guests were sent to their rooms to wait out the storm.

Luckily, the tsunami passed through the islands with minimal damage, no airport delays occurred, and the TJC travelers returned to Texas on time and very grateful for a safe and memorable trip they will never forget. **T**



For more photos, please see page 28



ALUMNI NEWS

TJC alumni board member Margaret Loftis dies



Margaret Loftis

TJC Alumni Association board member Margaret Loftis passed away May 22.

An innovative educator, Mrs. Loftis established the first Learning Resource Center concept for the Tyler public school system at Moore Middle School in 1956. In 1976, she became a full-time volunteer for her community, church and colleges.

She served in many key volunteer capacities over the years, including

president of Tyler Sister Cities and co-chair of Tyler's Day of Prayer, and was a member of the TJC Alumni Board of Directors and advisory board. She was named an Honorary Apache Belle in 2002 and was the alumni association's Special Recognition Award recipient in 2006. She had been working on gathering memorabilia for TJC's upcoming 85th anniversary celebration.

She shared 57 years of marriage with her childhood sweetheart and husband, Judge Harry Loftis, who passed away in 2003. Mr. Loftis served on the TJC Board of Trustees for 30 years. The Loftises were active in Marvin United Methodist Church.

TJC earns CASE award as best low-cost alumni program

Tyler Junior College Director of Alumni Affairs Betty Briggs brought home a top award from the annual Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Southwest District IV conference in New Orleans in February.

TJC's entry, "Large Alumni Program on a Small Budget," earned first place in the category of Best Low-Cost Alumni Program in the CASE District IV Awards, which included entries from four-year as well as two-year institutions.

"It was an honor to have Tyler Junior College listed among the winners that included Oklahoma State University, Baylor, Texas A&M University, UT Austin and other four-year universities," Briggs said. "We were one of only a handful of two-year colleges who won an award."

TJC's marketing and public affairs department earned honorable mention in the CASE Awards website animation category for the College's recently redesigned homepage, www.tjc.edu.

Harmony & Understanding alumni sought for reunion

The Tyler Junior College performing ensemble Harmony & Understanding is seeking alumni members to participate in a reunion event in conjunction with the college's 85th anniversary celebration beginning Fall 2011.

A committee of faculty, administration and alumni has been formed to plan the

event which will take place Saturday, Nov. 19, as part of the annual Harmony & Understanding Pops Concert.

Alumni members interested in participating, please contact Professor Andrea Trent by phone at 903-510-2213 or email atre@tjc.edu.

2010-11 Alumni Association Officers, Board Members and Advisory Board



The TJC Alumni Association Board of Directors Officers: Gay Smith, President; Amy McCullough, Past-President; Jon Jacobs, President-Elect; and, Carol Beggs, Executive Secretary.

Board Members: Stephanie Arriola, Joe Carlyle, John Chance, Amy Cunningham, 'Doc' Deason, Christy Evans, Diane Hawkins, Robert Reed, Justin Smith, Molly Turman Smith, Nancy Stewart and Roy Sulser.

Advisory Board: Eunice Chancellor, Margaret Loftis, Nancy Lunceford, Shirley Mallory, Emma Lou Prater, and Coach Herb Richardson.

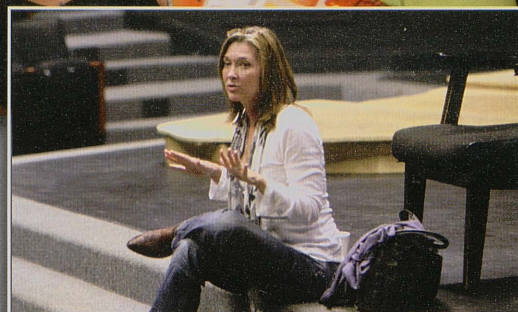
Ex-Officio: Betty Briggs, Alumni Director/Treasurer; and, Dr. Kim Russell, Vice President of Advancement/External Affairs.

ALUMNI NEWS

TJC theater students meet actress and TJC alumna Donna Bullock



Actress and TJC alumna Donna Bullock spent some time talking with TJC theater students and faculty in Jean Browne Theatre on April 7. Bullock graduated from TJC in 1976, then transferred to Southern Methodist University. A professional actress for decades, she has worked in film ("Air Force One"), television ("Frasier", "Monk" and "Medium") and on the Broadway stage ("Ragtime" and "A Class Act"). Most recently, she performed in the Off-Broadway play, "A Perfect Future." Pictured front, from left: Joshua Eguia, Brittany Elston, Teri Klauser, Donna Bullock, Kristina Broadway, Brittany Brinkley and Jacque Shackelford; back row, Betty Briggs, David Crawford, Lloyd Luthas and Clayton Cagle.



Austin Chapter Gathering



The TJC Alumni Association Austin Chapter hosted a gathering at the Omni Downtown Austin on Jan. 27. The chapter event coincided with Tyler Day in Austin, and many dignitaries from the Rose City were able to attend the event and meet with the TJC alumni group. Pictured above are TJC Austin alumni with many of the Tyler Day contingent; and at left (from left), TJC President Dr. Mike Metke and his wife, Donna, with TJC alumni Mary Boles Blich and Adm. Bobby Inman.

(continued from page 23)

In 2009, Flynn was inducted into the Texas Dance and Drill Team Educators Association's Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Award is the most prestigious award achieved by an individual in the dance/drill team field in Texas. Flynn was present at the 1996 ceremony when Stringer and Gilliam were among the first group of Hall of Fame inductees.

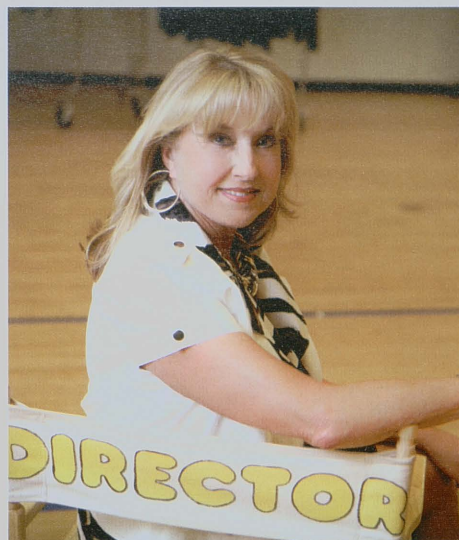
Despite the appearances and accolades, Flynn stresses the fact that running the program such as the Apache Belles is a business. There are budgets, scheduling responsibilities, costumes, props and fundraising, not to mention the recruitment, auditions, rehearsals and performances.

"It consumes your life for however long you choose to do it," she said. "You have to love it. You have to live and breathe it."

Jasilyn Salzman Schaefer is getting a taste of that all-consuming Apache Belle existence.

An Apache Belle from 1996-98, Schaefer was a member of the 50th anniversary line.

"From the moment I met Mrs. Flynn, I could tell she was a strong leader," Schaefer said. "I didn't want to disappoint her or the Belles who had gone before me. She created in me a desire to uphold and carry on the tradition of excellence for which the Apache Belles are known."



Her time in the director's chair is ending, but Ruth Flynn says the Apache Belles will always be a part of her life.

"Her passion and complete dedication and sacrifice to the Apache Belles inspired me and drove home the point that I was indeed a part of something that transcended my two years at TJC."

Today, Schaefer is the interim director charged with the task of filling Flynn's boots, along with artistic director and choreographer Christy Evans. Evans was an Apache Belle from 1991 to 1993.


Having their mentor nearby during the transition has been invaluable, she said.

"To work with her now I still see that passion for the Apache Belles, for what it stands for and her love for the organization, but I have had the privilege to get to know her as a friend," Schaefer said. "I have been able to ask her questions regarding leading this organization, how she would handle certain situations."

"There is no school that you can attend to learn what she has to teach. I have learned from the best, both as her graduate assistant from 1999-2001 and as her administrative assistant. I continue to learn from her daily. Her grace during this transition, her support of the change in leadership, and her willingness to help in whatever way possible has been such a blessing and an inspiration."

With a new Apache Belles leadership within reach, Flynn is comfortable in her decision to step back and spend time with her husband Alvin, their children and grandchildren.

"I expect that I will still have some involvement here and there, but I feel very peaceful about this being the right time for me to go," Flynn said. "When you get that feeling of peace, you know you've made the right decision."

"I have loved every minute of my time here." 

(continued from page 15)

"Some of our main accommodations include providing extra time or a quiet testing place, a copy of notes or preferential seating. The plan for accommodations comes from a meeting between the student and myself, and sometimes the instructor, depending on the situation."

She said the number of students served varies each year; but in the Fall 2010 semester, TJC Disability Services provided assistance to well over 200 students.

"During the course of construction on our campus, we are addressing accommodations on a case-by-case basis," she said. "If a student has

access issues, we can even go so far as to relocate the location of the class to accommodate their needs."

Sometimes issues can be completely negated with some serious advance planning.


Burks provides a case in point:

"Last year, I needed a science class and Mrs. Rapp knew they were going to be moved out to the Apache Woodlands in the fall," he said, "so I was able to plan ahead take the class the semester before that."

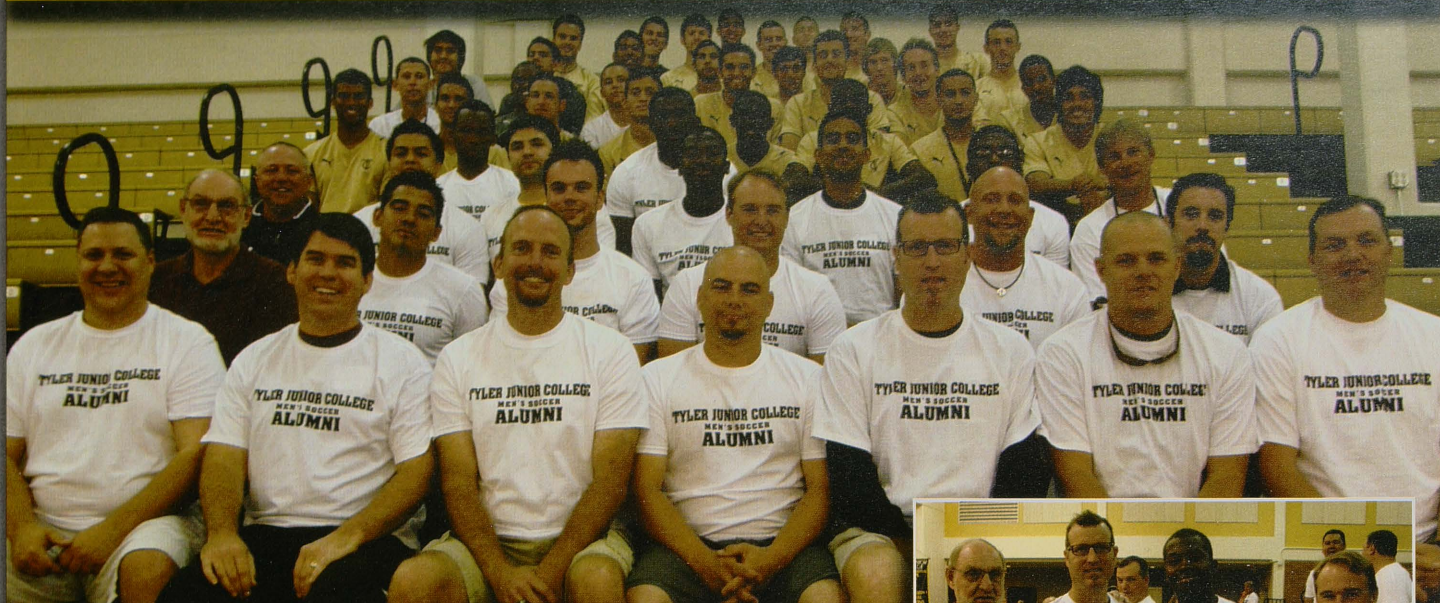
Many wheelchair treks to and from the Apache Woodlands were avoided by a forward-thinking move.

"Look," he said, "I'm the first person in my family to go to college, so I didn't really know what to expect when I got here. I felt like I was going into it blindfolded."

"What I got was great service. Everyone has been very accommodating for whatever I have needed."

Asked what advice he would give a TJC student who needs assistance, Burks said, "People don't know what needs to be fixed if you don't tell them. My advice would be to let them know what needs to be done and they will make it happen." 

Soccer Reunion



In April, the TJC Alumni Association hosted its first TJC Men's Soccer Reunion in the newly renovated Wagstaff Gym and at Pat Hartley Field. TJC's first soccer coach, Peter Jones, enjoyed visiting with soccer alumni and reminiscing about the program's early days in the late 1970s, when there was no budget for soccer. Players had to buy all their equipment and uniforms and furnish their own travel. Soccer alumni enjoyed visiting with the current TJC soccer team – national champions – and playing a match once again at TJC. Inset photo, from left : Peter Jones, Lance Johnson, Chris Handy and Bryan Brady.



TJC ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2011 October 28-29

Friday, October 28

6:00 p.m. Dance

Saturday, October 29

6:00 p.m. Awards Dinner
(Apache Rooms, Rogers Student Center)

2:00 p.m. Reunions
(Rogers Student Center)

- Class of 1960 Golden Reunion
- 1960 National Championship Football Team Reunion
- Apache Band Reunion
- Apache Belles 45th Line (1991-93) & all Former Belles
- Geology Club

12:30-2:30 p.m. Alumni Tailgate Party
TMF Rose Stadium Parking Lot
(Catered by Spring Creek - RSVP by October 24)
Alumni Members Free/Guest - \$10 - Tickets required

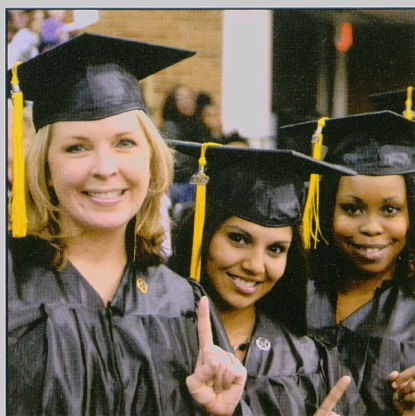
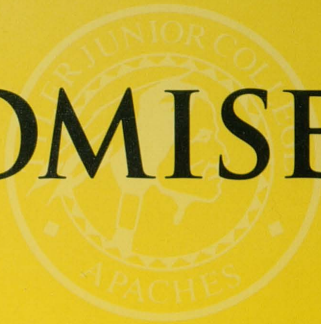
1:00 p.m. Walk the Rim - Band/Belles and their Alumni

2:00 p.m. Homecoming Queen/King Presentation
& Pregame Show

3:00 p.m. Football Kickoff - TJC Apaches vs Kilgore

For more information or to RSVP for events, contact Nicole Durham
in the TJC Alumni Office at 903-510-2588 or e-mail ndur@tjc.edu.

OUR THREE PROMISES SINCE 1926.



A VIBRANT STUDENT LIFE.

Today we hold steadfast to the belief that student interaction – whether in athletics, performing groups, fraternal organizations or professional or academic groups – bonds students with their peers and thus to their scholastic endeavors.

Everyone on campus is committed to increasing what is already a diverse and active student life at TJC.

A QUALITY EDUCATION.

The promise to deliver a quality college education to prepare students for transfer to higher-level colleges and universities was key to our creation. It's a standard we've held high for more than 80 years.

TJC students who transfer to complete a bachelor's degree regularly outperform students who began their degree plan at an upper-level college.



COMMUNITY SERVICE.

To take the maturation of students into whole, productive individuals a step further is to expect of them a realization of their place in society.

TJC is proud that so many instructors, courses and academic programs require community service. And, we are just as proud that our students volunteer to spend their time helping others.



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Mission Statement: To provide a comprehensive collegiate experience that is anchored in the rich traditions of a quality education, vibrant student life and community service. Accreditation: Tyler Junior College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tyler Junior College. Tyler Junior College gives equal consideration to all applicants for admission, employment and participation in its programs and activities without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, veteran status or limited English proficiency (LEP).



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TJC Apache Chiefs lead the way



The TJC Apache Chiefs are an elite group of students who oversee all areas of FYE (First Year Experience) Extravaganza for incoming freshmen. They are also mentors to these students, making sure they are successful in their first year at TJC.